no. 29

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A Full and True

ACCOUNT

Of the LATE REVOLUTION in *SAVOY*, and of the Motives and Occaſion of the Duke of *SAVOY*'s Declaration of WAR againſt *FRANCE*, and for Reſtoring all the *VAUDOIS* to their Liberties and Ancient Privileges, who are joined with His Forces againſt the *French*.

As alſo of the ſeveral Defeats given to the *French* Forces, by the *Vaudois* and *Savoyards*.

17. June. 1690

In a Letter to a Perſon of Quality, from Geneva, June 9. 1690.

LICENSED, *June* 16. 1690. *J. FRASER.*

YOU know, that ſome time ago the *French* advanced towards *Piemont*, under the Command of Monſieur *de Catinat*; their Number was reported to be 14000 Men, but the truth is, they were not above Ten Thouſand. The pretence of that Expedition was to make War againſt the *Vaudois*; they attack'd them the *1ſt* and *2d* of *May*: The *Vaudois* defended themſelves ſtoutly, and the *French* loſt many of their Men. After that *Catinat* made as if he had been willing to fall upon the *Milaneze*; but he came back on a ſudden, and poſted himſelf in the Neighbourhood of *Turin*. The firſt thing he demanded from the Duke of *Savoy*, was, That he ſhould give him 3000 Men of his Troops to ballance the Succours he had given the Emperour, which was, of 100000 pounds *ſterl.* The Duke anſwered, he had bought ſome Fiefs of the Emperour, and that it was really a Bargain, and not any Succours he had ſent him, when he gave him the ſaid One Hundred Thouſand Pounds. *Catinat* not being contented with this Anſwer, gave the Duke but twice Twenty Four Hours to take his laſt Reſolution. The Duke finding himſelf ſo cloſely ſtreightned, made as if he had a Mind to enter into a Treaty with *France*; and for that purpoſe ſent Couriers to *Paris*, and promiſed *Catinat*, in the mean time, he would give him the Troops the *French* King was deſirous of having. *Catinat* ſeem'd as if he had been ſatisfied with theſe Promiſes, and went back towards the *Milaneze*, ſeized upon *Carignan-Bridge*, upon the River *Pò*; and having left there 1000 Dragoons in Garriſon, return'd again towards *Turin*, and declared to the Duke, That he would ſee the Execution of his Promiſe, and that the King his Maſter would have, for the ſecurity of his Neutrality, the Citadel of *Turin* and *Verue* to be delivered up to him. The Duke, under pretence of Treaty, demanded ſome time to know the Reſolutions of the *French* King. *Catinat*'s Nephew went immediately to the *French* Court. During this Negotiation and delay, the Duke got near a Months time, which he diligently imploy'd in gathering ſecretly the *Militia* of the Country, in Fortifying and Furniſhing with Ammunitions the Citadel of *Turin*, and the other Frontier Places, cauſing a good Guard to be kept in the Night time. He did likewiſe employ ſome of that time in diſpatching Envoys to all the Neighbouring Princes, and eſpecially to the Diet of the *Suiſſers*, where his Ambaſſador, and that of *Spain* ſpoke with ſo good ſucceſs againſt the Cheats and Violences of the *French* Court, that all the Aſſembly was moved ſo far to compaſſion, as to ſhed tears: And the Diet reſolved to acquaint the D. of *Savoy*, That the intention of the *Cantons* was, That he ſhould order *Catinat* to draw back his Troops from *Piemont*, which if he ſhould refuſe to do, the *Suiſſers* would not fail to give the Duke all the Aſſiſtance they were able

able to do. The Courier, which Monsieur *Amelot*, the *French* Ambassador in *Suisserland*, had sent to Monsieur *Catinat*, came to him by some hours sooner than he that was sent to the Duke from the Diet; and hearing the Resolution of the *Cantons*, he sent to Compliment the Duke, praying him to send him his Chancellour, and telling him, that he hoped some Means should be found out to accommodate all Affairs. The Duke, who knew nothing yet from *Suisserland*, of what had been determined there in his Favour, sent him his Chancellour, with a design to gain more time; but the Courier of *Suisserland* being arriv'd a little while after, the Duke sent after his Chancellor to call him back, and having Assembled the Council of Estate, and that of War, it was Resolved they should have nothing more to manage with *Catinat*, but order him to depart the Dukes Dominion within 24 Hours, which if he would not do, they would Attack him and Charge him immediately.

You must know that when *Catinat* received that unwelcom News, his Army was weakned, by a Detachment he had sent against the *Vaudois*, to keep the Valleys of *Pragelas*, besides it was lessened by 2 Regiments of *Suissers*, who refused to fight against the *Savoyards*; Monsieur *Catinat* to secure them, sent them to *Cazal*, to have from thence 2 other Regiments, but the *Suissers* in their March meeting with all the *Savoy* Militia in Arms, joined with them, and renounced the *French* Setvice. On the other side, the Detachment which was sent against the *Vaudois* had but a bad success: the truth is, the *Vaudois* were forced to retire upon a high Mountain, after they had made a great slaughter of the *French*, many Carts of wounded Persons were carryed to *Turin*, where they arrived before the Rupture. The *Vaudois* hearing the Dukes Intentions, they offered themselves to him to go and serve in his Army against the *French*.

After the Duke had taken and declared in Council his Resolution of breaking with *France*, he came out upon the Piazza, and made a fine Speech to the People, which shewed so great an Aversion against the *French*, that they offered to employ their Lives and Fortunes for the Service of His Royal Highness; the Priests themselves offered to give the Plate of their Churches, saying, They could Officiate in Wooden Cups. There came Ten thousand Men from *Mondovi*, and from the *Marquisat* of *Seve*; they demanded leave to Charge the *French*, and there was such a thronging to take Arms all over *Savoy*, that they were not able to give them all Powder and Ammunition. They set a Guard upon Monsieur *Rebenac* Ambassador of *France*; When the Duke had the good News from *Suisserland*, he had at the same time some likewise from the *Italian* Princes, who encouraged him very much in the Resolution he has taken against *France*.

The Republick of *Venice* offered him 20000. Pounds Sterling a Month. After this the Duke sent Couriers to acquaint all the Princes with his Rupture with *France*, and caused to be Published, all over his Dominions, a Proclamation in behalf of the *Vaudois*, which gave them leave to come into their Country again, he caused the same Proclamation to be sent into *Suisserland*, and other Parts, to Sollicit the *Vaudois* to return, assuring them, that all the Violences and Cruelties that were practised against them did not come from him, but from the *French*, who were the Authors and Executors of them. Acts of Hostility are already begun, the *Vaudois* are come down from their Mountains, and have cut off a Party of 100 *French*. They say Monsieur *Catinat* has lost 900 Men, which have been killed by the Country People. The Merchants of *Lions* have at *Turin* Three or four hundred thousand Pounds Sterling worth of Goods, which they have left there to save themselves.

Troops advance from the *Milaneze*, and there are already 3000 *Spainards* at *Ast*. Some Forces are drawing from *Germany* into the *Milaneze*, and they expect in *Suisserland* with great impatience the return of King *William*'s Courier, who if he comes back with a good Sum of Money, without question in little time we shall see an entire Revolution and change of Affairs there, from what they were some Months ago.

London, Printed for *Richard Baldwin* in the *Old Bailey*. 1690.